Men Who Hope To Be Rich Fight Tax on Fortunes

Proposition by British Labor for Heavy Levy on Wealth Meets Stubborn Opposition Among Poorer Groups

By Harold E. Scarborough

LONDON, November 1.

ON THE special train that brought Mr. Lloyd George back to London after his speech at Leeds last Saturday there was one old gentleman who did not share in the general optimism—who indeed sat apart and aloof.

It did not take very long to find out that he was a thorough-going Tory, a "die-hard," and participating in a Liberal function! He explained rather eagerly that he hadn't been able to get out of it, owing to an official position which he held.

We talked politics, as did everybody on that train, and when we reached the Labor party program he snorted violently.

"It's perversion of Scripture, sir; that's what it is!" he declared. "The Bible tells us that 'to him that hath shall be given'; the Labor capital levy means, 'from him that hath shall be taken.' And when I say that people call me an old beaver and laugh!"

A beaver, it must be explained, is popular slang for a man with a beard. The old gentleman certainly ranked high in that category—almost a king beaver. But, however his views on the capital levy were received, there is no doubt that this plank in the Labor platform is easily one of the most controversial issues in the present election campaign here.

Stated in its simplest terms, the Labor idea is this:

"We as a nation are heavily in debt. Ordinary methods of taxation will not even suffice to continue paying the interest. Our plan is for everybody with over £5,000 to chip in and wipe out a great portion of that debt, so we can start again with a clean slate."

At the first glance it would seem that opinion would be very strictly divided on this proposal. Knowledge of human nature dictates the belief that people with less than £5,000 would say, in effect, "Fine idea!" while those with more than that amount would simply say, "Rotten!"

Those Who Live in Hopes Are Bitterest Opponents

But the issue is by no means as simple as that. One must take into consideration not only the 300,000 Britons who have personal fortunes of £5,000 or more, but also the other 39,700,000 who hope some day to have that much. It is somewhat paradoxical to find perhaps the fiercest opposition to the plan coming from the latter group.

Unless all signs fail, the next government will not be a Labor one, so that the present status of the proposal is largely academic. Nevertheless, the Labor people have their scheme all worked out, down to very minute details, and, whatever else it is, it certainly is interesting reading.

Pointing out that the British national debt is now about £7,800,000,000, the Laborites assert that the country for years ahead is faced with an annual interest charge of at least £390,000,000. The also claim that with the gradual fall of prices the value of money rises and the burden of the debt consequently becomes heavier.

"This," they say in effect, "has many evil effects. First of all, it increases the present great inequality in the distribution of the national income. We tax the poor to pay interest to the holders of war bonds, most of whom are rich.

"In the second place, this burden of taxation constitutes a serious check to trade and industry, and one which will grow rather than decrease.

"In the third place, so long as we have to pay so much interest, we shall be unable to carry out schemes of social betterment.

"But we cannot reduce the rate of interest, because we have given our word to pay a certain amount, and we must stick by it.

"So the best thing is for everybody who can to contribute to the 'kitty' (remember this is a translation), and wipe out the debt from capital, instead of income."

The assessment for the capital levy would be made on individuals only. Savings banks, co-operative societies, friendly societies, trade unions, educational or charitable trusts would be exempted. Joint stock companies would be assessed only in so far as their stocks were held by individuals.

Labor's Reply to Charge Capital Would Be Crippled

The minimum of exemption has been set at £5,000, because that was the figure proposed by the Board of Inland Revenue in 1919 in its scheme for taxation of war fortunes. Answering the charge that any capital levy would seriously cripple trade by withdrawing capital from it, the Laborites say:

"The real capital of the country consists of such things as buildings and machinery, railways, ships, livestock and stocks of goods. None of these things would be destroyed or in any way affected by the collection of a levy, which would largely resolve itself into an exchange of pieces of paper, but of which the after effects would be highly beneficial to production and employment."

The tentative plan for the levy calls for the following scale of payments:

Individual fortune.	Tax (£).	Per cent.
£5,000	0	0
6,000	50	1.2
8,000	250	3.2
10,000	550	5.5
15,000	1,550	10.3
20,000	2,800	14.0
30,000	5,800	19.3
50,000	12,800	25.6
100,000	32,800	32.8
200,000	77,800	38.9
500,000	227,800	45.6
1,000,000	502,800	50.3
2,000,000	1,102,800	55.1
5,000,000	3,002,800	59.0

The dollar equivalent of these figures varies with the exchange. At present $4.45 equals a pound sterling.

The Labor party believes that a levy such as the one outlined above would produce £3,000,000,000 and would reduce the annual debt charges by about £150,000,000.

An elaborate plan has been worked out for the application and collection of the levy. It is as complicated as is the collection of the present income tax, and would indeed be carried out along the same general lines as the latter. Every individual possessing £5,000 or over (in property of any description, stocks or bonds or in any form whatever) would be required to make a detailed return of his wealth, specifying its amount, sources and value. He would be provisionally assessed on his own valuation and would be required to pay the levy on this provisional assessment. The inland revenue officials would then check up the returns and gradually raise or lower the contribution from each individual, returning part of his payment if it were proved his assessments were too heavy and demanding more if it were too light. It is estimated that 86 per cent of the personal property liable to taxation could be easily and accurately valued.

Difficult Items on Which To Set Value Are Outlined

"The only important items difficult to value would be the business assets of private companies and partnerships and of individual traders, which amount to less than 8 per cent of the property liable to estate duty, and household goods, pictures, etc., which amount to less than 6 per cent," says the brochure describing the plan of the levy.

It is claimed that payment of the tax could be arranged so as to avoid violent dislocation of industry or forced realization of property on a large scale. Payment would be accepted either in cash, government securities or any other securities easily realizable on the Stock Exchange. In special cases the Treasury might be given a mortgage or floating charge on the taxpayer's assets. There are innumerable minor provisions, such as offering more favorable terms for particularly prompt or acceptable payment. For instance, British government securities tendered in payment of the levy would be canceled at once. Flooding the market with stock received for the levy would be avoided by the gradual feeding of it onto the market by the debt commissioners. Payment in full would be required within three years, but special boards of referees would be instituted to judge disputed cases.

It is realized that the cancellation of government securities would mean a decrease in income tax returns and in death duties, but it is claimed that this decrease would not exceed £35,000,000 annually, leaving a net saving of £115,000,000 to the exchequer.

So there is the capital levy plan. Its opponents point to Russia as an example of a country after a thoroughgoing capital levy. Others say that while it would work out well in theory, in practice any such wholesale transfer of wealth as it contemplates would create panic.

"Who," they ask, "is going to buy the stocks the government offers for sale?"

Still others believe it would lead to a further contralization of wealth, instead of to a more equable distribution. Extreme comments range from "Socialism!" to "Bolshevism!" And a few, like my friend, the King Beaver in the train, quote Scripture. After the elections one will know better whether the capital levy will be a live issue in the near future or whether it will remain only the dream of reformers.

Cheaper Beer, Longer Drinking Hours, Among Big Issues in British Elections

Conservative Chiefs Urged to Stress Excessive Prices of Liquor Before Voters

By Warre B. Wells

LONDON, November 1.

BACK of the stock party cries with which the hustings now are beginning to resound there is a question about which party organizers and candidates have singularly little to say, but which, just the same, is very much present in the minds of the electors. It is the question of the liquor traffic, which is playing much more of a part in the election than appears on the surface.

You will not find in the official programs of the various parties much enlightenment on this matter, which is a topic of conversation in every club and "pub" (English for saloon) in the Kingdom. The Conservative party preserves on this question a discreet silence, for the reason of which more anon. The Liberal party tucks away in just the most obscure place it can find in its program a coy reference to "a comprehensive reform of our licensing system," by which it means local option or what full-blooded anti-Pussyfoots call more tersely "the thin end of the wedge of protection." The Labor party is even more discreet in its formula, but leans more or less in the same direction as the Liberals.

No one of the parties has had enough of its nerve with it to declare itself boldly in favor of what, to judge from the correspondence columns of the more independent newspapers, quite a considerable slice of the electorate really wants—namely, a reduction in the price of liquor and an extension of hours in which to drink it.

But Lord Beaverbrook, owner of "The Express" newspapers, the Canadian editor-peer, who, now that Lord Northcliffe is dead, has perhaps no rival in sensing just which way the cat of public opinion is going to jump, has as an independent supporter of the Conservative party given that party a strong lead on the question. "Now that the general election is upon us," his "Daily Express" just thas declared, "constituents ought to press their candidates hard upon the subject of the excessive price of beer. For the last two years consumers of light beer have been paying a penny a pint more than the 1920 price—and the difference has gone straight into the pockets of the brewers."

Party Rid of Chamberlain And Policy He Formulated

"This," the paper adds, "was made possible purely by the fiscal policy of Mr. Austen Chamberlain as Chancellor of the Exchequer. But the Conservative party is now free of Mr. Chamberlain and his finance, and it is also free of Sir Archibald Salvidge (the Liverpool party boss, who hitherto has had great influence in the counsels of the party), who is a brewer as well as a politician."

"We desire that the Conservative party should have done, once and for all, with the kind of influence which he represents. That party now has a chance to make a clean start in this matter, and it should take it. The electors ought to see to it that candidates pledge themselves to alter the existing taxation on beer, so as to reduce without fail the price of beer by a penny a pint on the lighter varieties, and if possible by a penny a pint all round."

The Conservative party certainly has a very good opportunity of beating the other parties to it with a popular cry along the lines here indicated by Lord Beaverbrook. Both Liberals and Laborites have got themselves all tied up on this question. The Liberal party, though it professes to stand more for individual liberty than any other party, still is dominated to a very large extent by the "non-conformist conscience," and the main strength of the prohibition movement in this country certainly is to be found in the ranks of the party. Its principal supporters in the press are backed by the great cocoa manufacturers, such as Cadbury and Rowntree, and this press commonly is know as "the cocoa press." Cynical pro-liquorites allege that there is a very direct connection between Liberal trade interest in the sale of non-alcoholic beverages such as cocoa and the "dry" tendency of the party. Anyway, the influence of the cocoa press is thrown strongly on the side of Pussyfoot, and the reaction of the party as a whole to this influence is self-evident.

Why "progressive" ideas in politics and advocacy of more restrictions on the sale of liquor necessarily should go together is by no means clear to the average Briton. But certainly the Labor party is, broadly speaking, as much as the Liberals in favor of such devices as local option. Very certainly it is in no position to come out into the open with a vote-catching cry of "cheaper beer for the workers." Aside from the prohibitionist leanings of its more "intellectual" leaders, Labor on this question is muzzled, for the reason that it has always and probably rightly—identified "the trade" with what Laborites call reaction in politics.

Slogan of "Cheaper Beer" Has Drawback of Its Own

Just the same one may very confidently predict that the Conservative party will not take advantage of the position of its opponents and advance into the electoral battle with Lord Beaverbrook's slogan on its party banners. For one thing, though on this question the party stands for individual liberty more than its opponents, just the same there is a strong anti-liquor element in the party. The Astor influence, for example, of weight in the party counsels, with its liberal backing of the party funds and wielding a big press power in "The Sunday Observer"—now to be strengthened by Major John Jacob Astor's part holding in the new proprietorship of "The Times"—swings in the direction of prohibition. If there may be, as Lord Beaverbrook believes, votes to be won with the slogan of "cheaper beer," there surely is also influential backing to be lost.

But there is another and more powerful reason why that slogan should not be raised by the Conservative party. Lord Beaverbrook is right in saying that the increase in the price of beer goes into the pockets of the brewers—and on this point, curiously enough, he is supported by the Laborites—it is at least equally true that the influence of the liquor interest in the Conservative party does not end with the extinction of Sir Archibald Salvidge.

The Laborites have a good deal of evidence on their side in identifying "the trade" with reaction in politics—by which they mean the Conservatives. Almost without exception, prominent representatives of brewing and distilling industries in politics are to be found in the ranks of the Conservative party. Colonel Gretton, House of Commons spokesman of the Tory "Die-hards," who ultimately were responsible for the overthrow of the Lloyd George coalition, is a director of the famous brewing firm of Bass, Ratcliff & Gretton. Lord Woolavington, a leading supporter of the Conservative party, who in this year won both a peerage and the Derby with Captain Cuttle, is better known as Sir James Buchanan, and that name identifies him with a Scottish distilling firm.

Lord Dewar, another power behind the party scenes, bears a name which is a household, or at least a saloon, word in this country. Then there are the Irish Unionist interests, still powerful in British politics, and of these the outstanding names are Guinness and Jameson—names as familiar to the "pub" man and the clubman as in the Conservative headquarters. Sir James Craig himself, the Ulster Unionist Premier, is connected—much to his own inconvenience in local politics—with an Ulster distilling firm.

One way and another, every party in British politics finds it convenient to have as little to say as possible about the liquor question. By common consent it is not, strictly speaking, an issue in the election. But that it is an issue in the minds of the electors is shown by the fact that at least one independent candidate has made it a platform plank. This is Kyrle Bellew, the actress, wife of Arthur Bourchier. She is standing as an independent candidate for Brighton. "My third plank," she says, "is a reduction in the price of tobacco and beer. Beer is the backbone of the country, and always has been. I speak as a wife, mother and business woman." Kyrle Bellew may or may not be elected to Parliament, but there is no question that in these sentiments she represents a pretty solid block of voters.

Conservatives' Posters

These are being used by the Unionists in the fight on the Labor Party

Simple Hygiene Is Called Real Secret of Long Life

Glands and Other Surgical Devices Cannot Halt March of Old Age, Is Opinion of French Savants

PARIS, November 1.

PONCE DE LEON hunted with no success for the fountain of eternal youth in Florida. He drew only a certain amount of ridicule from his cronies. There are several modern Ponce de Leons in Europe to-day looking for the fount of longer youth armed with faith in the hypodermic needle or the transplantation of glands.

History repeats the experience of Ponce de Leon.

Some of the greatest scientists of Europe have been asked to give their cold, hard verdict on this new craze for rejuvenation.

"Can life be prolonged?" is the blunt question put to such men as Professor Bouvier, of the Academy of Sciences; the well-known Dr. Variot, Professor Richet, member of the Institute and Academy of Medicine; Dr. Fiessinger, of the Academy, and Camille Flammarion—all savants in this land of science, which produced Pasteur, Cure and others, now dead. The verdict is that life can be prolonged, but not to any extent by needle pricks and operations.

The opinion of the group of savants presented in the popular Paris magazine "Lecture Pour Tous" is unanimous that life is subnormal, and rather than look to surgical means for longevity this accomplishment lies in simpler things: hygeine, diet, philosophy and other precautions against premature weakening of the tissues and, possibly more important, the fight of science against decimating diseases.

Dr. Variot, who is himself not young, has this to say to septuagenarians and octogenarians:

"To the man who has, despite many obstacles, reached old age, the prolongation of life can only be limited. All living things, animals as well as vegetables, have an evolution of which death is the inevitable. However, longevity may be hereditary in more robust races whose cellular elements suffer senile degeneration more slowly and whose nutrition is more active and regular. Some men of fifty, however, have an organic wear and tear greater than some of seventy. Each individual grows old in his own way and following predispositions in which heredity plays a big role. Such and such an organ suffers an initial and predominating degeneration, with the result that it affects all the others more or less rapidly.

Medical Science Is Able to To Guard Life for Time

"Doubtless medical science is not disarmed," the savant admits, "and can combat symptoms of organic lesion for a time; but no medicine can attack the cause of accidents, that is the nutrivity troubles which are of a slow, relentless evolutionary character."

Taking a monkey gland and transplanting into man is not a substitute, this scientist thinks. The human body is not an automobile which can be driven up to a service station and proceed normally after a defective part has been unscrewed, thrown aside and another put in its place. In scientific language Professor Variot goes into this phase as follows:

"In the present state of our knowledge of physiology it is impossible to replace an organ as one substitutes a part in a motor; it would therefore be chimeric to pursue an indefinite longevity. Our pretensions should be more moderate—by alimentary and hygenic regimes adjusted to the conditions of the organs one can gain time; and by inoffensive stumlants one can also give a whiplash to the organisms; but, unfortunately, we lack resources to repair the cellular structures, whose ruin is irreparable."

In this the French scientist ignores for humans the theory of Dr. Alexis Carrel, of Rockefeller Institute, who has kept tissues of embryo chicken hearts in constant proliferation for more than eight years; constantly reproducing cellular life, in test tubes. Variot's theory that human cells burn slowly out and while the fires can be made to burn perhaps more slowly this devastating force brings the body each day nearer its transition to dust is wholly supported by the famous Professor Richet, who, some time ago, gave weight to Sir A. Conan Doyle's claim that ghosts or what seem to be ghosts emanate from the mysterious substance called ectoplasm. Discussing the more material side of life, however, Professor Richet says that every human effort must remain powerless to modify the inevitable exhaustion of cellular life.

"One thing is certain," says Professor Richet, "the wastage of our organs is closely tied to intensity of body combustion—thus if, by any process, body temperature could be lowered, life would be prolonged."

This savant points out that animals living in glacial seas live longer than the same species inhabiting the hot tropical waters.

"But," he asks, "is it possible to change the organic temperature of the human body? I do not think so, and in any event, this would not be desirable, because it could not be except at the price of diminishing physical activity."

But there is no danger of being able to reduce body temperature. We could never do this event to the extent of one-half degree. Thus by this procedure we know no way to prolong life.

"However, we are not absolutely helpless: for if we cannot slow up the normal wear—which is life itself—at least we can prevent acceleration, which, unfortunately, seems to be the task to which most men constantly devote themselves; by their numerous faults they hurry the limited force of cellular evolution. I do not speak of the enormous, monstrous mistakes, such as the abuse of alcohol and poisons; neither do I speak of the maladies which can be avoided, that even when they do not bring death, result in destruction of our tissues. No, I am only alluding to the abuses of work and especially of pleasure.

"In order to live long it is necessary to be a true epicurian in the real sense of the word. Epicure, greatly libeled, said the 'Divine precept is moderation in everything.' Moderation, always moderation, a regular, methodical, simple, sage existence, without excesses, even without brilliance—perhaps is the way to guarantee life, not beyond the limits compatible with our normal physiology, but at least without hurrying to the fatal end."

Longevity, Professor Richet says, is hereditary and the result of prudence.

Dr. Fiessinger, a member of the Academy of Medicine, believes that the normal life of man can be prolonged with consistency to eight years—if certain rules which he suggests are followed. Alimentary hygiene and a well-balanced ration, each of physical and cerebral exercise, are named by this savant as most essential. Brain work is as necessary as physical effort to stir up nutrition, he thinks. Like Henry Ford, he believes that meat eating is a bad practice, but he prescribes moderate amounts of wine daily by way of vitalizing glandular secretion, especially of those glands assigned by nature to destroy body poisons. This portion of the savant's advice might do much to stir up cerebral exercise among Americans, but there are other suggestions for longevity which would be possible in America with less mental agitation, such as avoiding unfiltered river water, uncooked vegetables and fruit lying upon the ground.

Dr. Fiessinger points to the Trappist monks, noted for long life, in sustaining his daily wine theory. These monks never let a day pass without imbibing a trifle over a pint of pure, good wine.

Philosophy of Life Given by Flammarion

The ideal philosophy of longevity comes perhaps from Camille Flammarion, famous astronomer, physicist and novelist, himself an octogenarian. His philosophy may not comfort the common type of American business man, who strives to live and work at high pressure until the moment comes to retire and often to break down in health. Flammarion combines in his own philosophy that of Plato, Aristotle and Epicurus. Says this savant:

"A man of fifty or sixty should possess his full virility. Living—and living to be old and impotent is not living. The object is not to grow old; to keep one's physical and mental faculties.

"The thing to prolong is the vital creative force of the brain and the vigor of the body, both of which support the 'vigueur de l'esprit.'

"Every human being should be interested in something. He should not act like a brute; live in order to eat, but eat in order to live."

Flammarion might have pointed to Edison and naturally his own life in adding: "Intensive intellectual life does not fatigue. That which fatigues is ambition, pride, vanity, envy, desire for honors and riches—climbing.

"There are people who believe we are on earth in order to make money. I knew a multi-millionaire who passed all his time counting his coupons. He is dead. He was an unfortunate idiot. He bored himself more than he bored those about him.

"If your daily bread is assured, be satisfied. Work in that line which interests you for your personal pleasure. Enjoy all your faculties. Do not imagine that a time for retirement approaches. Gather about yourself affectionate, young, gay surroundings.

"A simple and tranquil life; rather a vegetarian diet; neither alcohol nor tobacco nor intoxication of any kind; fresh air, oxygen, calmness, appreciation of beauty, thinking, reading and working agreeably; eight hours of effective work, eight hours of sleep, eight hours of exercise, varying according to temperament—walking, riding, eating—this, believes Flammarion, is the secret of longevity.

"Each organ has its function. Nature hates reaction. Use all your faculties normally," he advises.

"A mind always occupied and the love of human progress are, it seems to me," says this savant, "the best conditions for desirable long life, because it is neither inert nor inactive nor an expense to any one, but, on the contrary, useful to all.

"To live intellectually is to live doubly.

"Take humanity for what it is—stupid but perfectible. Life does not run smoothly. Be philosophical—a stoic. Do not become angry, because nothing is worse for the health. Remember that in the long run everything arranges itself.

"Make no mistake; if you have adversaries, even enemies, do not let it worry you. On the contrary, it is a good thing; they can help your progress. As for the ingratitude of those you have helped, don't be surprised. It is the order of things on this planet.

"Live in the mind and the heart. Contemplate nature; try to understand it in its immensity, from the infinitely great to the infinitely small; feel its eternal rebirth overflowing everywhere with inexhaustible fecundity—all this and you will never be bored, you will never find time hanging, you will feel as young at eighty as at forty with all your faculties.

"And when you go to sleep on the last night your last hour will be the evening of a beautiful day.

"But the will to remain young is one of our best arms against age and death."

Echoes From Abroad

"Address Incomplete"

A diocesan congress at Marseilles recently resolved to send a message of greeting and homage to the Head of the Church, and after the draft had been read and approved two members of the congress took it to the central postoffice for transmission. The official in charge took it and began reading the address:

"To His Holiness the Pope, Rome."

"The address is incomplete," said the sapient functionary, "and I cannot send it unless you supply a fuller address."

The two men stared at him, wonderingly.

"'Pope,'" he explained, "is not a name; it is a quality. As for 'Rome,' that is the name of a city, but you have neglected to give the name of the country in which it is situated, or the street and house number where your correspondent lives."

It was impossible to dissuade him from his resolution and the message was accordingly not sent.

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When "Tino" Was in Haste

King Constantine of Greece was, or at least greatly wanted to be, a "thunderbolt of war" at appropriate times. Thus it is related that in Macedonia, during the first Turko-Balkan war, an Ottoman division had turned the Greek camp topsy-turvy and the troops commanded by Constantine had turned madly to flight.

On the road the fugitives overtook, in a barouche drawn by four horses, a man who gesticulated wildly, while shouting to the driver:

"I'll have you shot for high treason, for your horses do not run fast enough!"

This hero was no other than the gallant "Tino" himself, who feared to be made a prisoner. He became a thunderbolt of war when his brother-in-law, William, had given him the baton of a Prussian feldmarschall. But he could be a thunderbolt going backward rather than forward, a back-firing thunderbolt, as it were.

Losing the Little Toe

The often-repeated story that many English ladies of fashion have had their little toes amputated so as to be able to wear the latest fashion of pointed shoes moves an American foot specialist to announce that the ladies can in the future save themselves this painful sacrifice to their vanity, for they will have only four toes. He declares that woman's little toe has been deteriorating in the course of many generations. Thus, for instance, the mummies of Egyptian women still show four joints in the little toe. But the women of ancient Greece had no more than three. At the present time the deterioration has left only, in many cases, not more than one knuckle. It therefore seems that the female little toe is fated to extinction. The authority cited traces this phenomenon to the use of shoes with high heels.

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A Five-Year Game of Chess

The patience of chess players in protracted games has long been proverbial, extending to games played by correspondence through the mails, in which perhaps several days inevitably intervened between moves. But the palm for prolixity must probably be given to a game lasting more than five years.

Before the war, according to André Mevil in "Le Petit Parisien," a modest French merchant went to Germany every year to spend a season at Homburg. He stayed there from July 15 until August 15. He seems to have been a punctual man, not arriving or leaving one day earlier or later. He stopped at the house of a retired small tradesman of the town, who took one or two persons as lodgers. The Frenchman and the German had the same passion: they loved chess. This passion had brought them together and they had become good friends.

On August 1, 1914, the Frenchman, who, as usual, was spending his season in Homburg and devoted himself with his host to the delights of chess, was surprised by events. The two partners had time only to take leave and rejoin their respective corps.

A little more than a year later a happy surprise occurred to them. They found each other in the hospital at Epernay, gravely wounded. The Frenchman's right hand had to be amputated. As to the German prisoner, his right leg was cut off. During their convalescence the two players tried to take up their game, which had been interrupted for more than a year. The hospital staff were astonished at the cordiality of the two—enemy players. They were presently separated and their game again found itself interrupted. . . .

On July 14, 1919, the German at Homburg was much surprised on receiving the following telegram: "Reserve a room; arrive to-morrow." The telegram was signed by the French merchant. That was an event in the house! Was it not the homecoming of the prodigal son?

The Frenchman saw again with emotion the small habitation which he had left precipitately in 1914. And the German was not less moved on seeing again under his roof the friend of former days. The storm, alas! had not spared them, for both had come back crippled. But sadness did not darken the brow of the players.

"We are going to continue our game," said the Frenchman.

"With the greatest pleasure," replied the German, "and I hope it will end without further hindrances. . . . Now, let's see, how stood the game at the hospital of Epernay when we were compelled to separate? . . . If I well remember, you had lost a rook."

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Toward Italy's Golden Age

The lot of the intellectuals is less enviable in Italy than in France, according to Paul Hazard in his "Notes on the New Italy," and he records the following explanation given him by one of his friends there:

"Do you know what happened in Italy during the war and soon after? Simply a social revolution. The middle classes, who were slow in aligning themselves with us, but who finally did so, contributing in a great measure to the prosperity of our young kingdom, evidently have been checked in their development. The people living on their competence, who are incomparably fewer than in France, but who are no longer so rare in northern Italy; the merchants who sold other things than groceries or clothes; the clerks, the people who practice the liberal professions, you, gentlemen, and I myself, we have been dispossessed of our rank."

Mr. Hazard's conclusions are nevertheless optimistic. He anticipates in the near future the elevation "of a people whom the foreigner wants always to bring back to a too glorious past, as it were, and who entirely tend toward the future"—a future when the economical and intellectual forces, thanks to a just rule, will find their equilibrium.

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Gautier's Vision of Aviation

Tennyson was not the only poet who prophesied aerial navigation. A thousand times in recent years men have recalled his vision of nearly a century ago, in which he "saw the heavens fill with commerce," and the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue." But a similar prophecy was made by his great French contemporary, Theophile Gautier, the fiftieth anniversary of whose death was commemorated the other day in Paris. In connection with that occasion "Le Figaro" printed a passage of Gautier, of which M. Bonnet had provided the original manuscript, as follows:

"What a charming spectacle it will be to see cruising in the air, at different heights, those swarms of aerostats painted by day in brilliant golden colors, and at night, with their lanterns, producing the effect of shooting stars.

"Then ascension on the highest mountains will be but a child's play. They will penetrate China, they will go to Timbuctoo as we are going now to St. Quentin; the deserts of Africa, of Asia, of America will be forced to disclose their secrets. They will push on to the limits of the atmosphere that surrounds us. They will visit creation in all her recesses.

"There will be balloons for hire and private balloons, and to boast of one's luxury they will say: 'He is rich. He has a balloon of 34,000 cubic feet of gas,' which will be equal to an equipage drawn by four horses.

"When this dream is realized they will try the realization of another dream already formulated by the poets. Man, arrived at the exterior limits of his atmosphere, will seek to disorbit himself and leave his planet. They will seriously try a voyage to the moon of Astolf and of Cyrona, and we no longer are afraid to say that they will succeed in this enterprise. Every planet having a moon has a right to visit its satellite, and remote communications will not always be sufficient. We must have more intimate things to tell to one another. . . . To go to the moon, to conquer Phoebe, that pale star that is in need of great salutary works—such will be the dream and occupation of our posterity. This conquest is beyond the present power of humanity. The years of the world are a thousand years each. Humanity is, therefore, at present, only six years old, and one cannot exact much of so young a child. Now it learns to eat, to walk, to swim, to fly. Later it will think and do fine things, but, alas, we shall no longer be here to see them."

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Stinnes Buys All Europe!

Is the German colossus of finance, Herr Hugo Stinnes, to become the owner of all Europe? Such is the fanciful vision of the Swedish humorous paper "Sondags Nisse," which, indeed, announces the transaction as an accomplished fact. Herr Stinnes, it says, has just purchased Europe for his private account. The price paid is still unknown, but it is supposed that Stinnes's profit in the business will be 200,000 milliards. Branting (Sweden's Premier), it is true, is said to hesitate over the sale of Scandinavia, but to have agreed in principle with Stinnes's project.

The relations of the inhabitants of the various countries will be regulated in such a manner that every person over fifteen years of age will be employed by Stinnes at a fixed salary and a percentage. Unemployment consequently ceases in the Stinnes countries. This advantage also benefits the members of the government, who are employed with Stinnes as confidential clerks. After the conclusion of the gigantic transaction the German mark will rise to its normal pre-war rate of exchange, whereupon M. Poincare will immediately raise the indemnity claims twenty-five fold. Stinnes has assumed the title of "Director General of United Europe" and is to be seen daily in European affairs in his Berlin office.